J. A. GUNN,
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THE

BLUE JAY

Official Bulletin
Of The
YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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OBJECTS:

To foster an active interest in every branch of nature study, and to promote the conservation of all wild life; also to act as a connecting link between nature lovers in Saskatchewan.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS:

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The spring of 1943 will certainly be remembered as "the cold spring." Many of the migrant birds were behind schedule and some of the flowering plants were two weeks later than usual in coming into bloom. A marked feature of this spring's bird migration in Yorkton was the fact that many of the smaller birds which usually spend a few days with us on their way to their northern nesting grounds, passed us up entirely this year. We saw no Fox or Harris Sparrows, few Myrtle Warblers, only a small number of White-throated Sparrows and no White-crowned. Yet in Regina White-crowned Sparrows were reported "everywhere" on May 12-14 and Harris Sparrows in a "veritable swarm" on the outskirts of that city on May 15. Did these birds press on with fewer "stop-overs" than usual, on to their northern haunts?

With this issue of the "Blue Jay" ends Volume 1. When we brought out the first number last October, it was on a veritable "shoestring", both as regards funds and news. In fact there were moments when, having taken "quarters" from people, we wondered if we would be able to make good our promise of four issues! However all that is past history, the response we have had to our bulletin is more than encouraging and all work connected with its production has been more than repaid by the number of delightful and interesting contacts we have made with people in all corners of the province. And we sincerely hope that the "Blue Jay" will continue to convey news of happenings in the outdoor world to an ever-widening circle.

The question whether the twenty-five cents membership fee is sufficient has faced us. That amount barely covers the cost of paper and stencils, but in view of the fact that the "Blue Jay" is the means that our club has chosen as its main method of encouraging an interest in native wild life, we have decided against any increase in membership fees,which will remain at twenty-five cents. But, at the same time, we shall be most grateful to anyone who feels they would like to give us an extra sustaining donation, in addition to the membership fee.

One sometimes hears the criticism that country people are not interested in nature. With this view we do not agree. The many letters we have received, show that country residents are definitely interested in nature, but the main difficulty seems to be that country people have so few sources from which they can obtain information about the things they see. We feel that there is a wide field for greater dissemination of nature lore. We should like to hear a greater number of popular radio talks given on nature subjects; read more nature, or bird, columns in the newspapers; and have travelling exhibits organized and sent out from the Provincial Museum. In any post-war programme for making country life more attractive such points should not be overlooked.

We are most grateful to Dr. A.L. Rand, of the National Museum of Canada, for his interest in sending us their list of the Bats recorded for Saskatchewan. As we have stated before, very little is known of the smaller animals of the prairie provinces, and the National Museum at Ottawa is anxious to obtain specimens of various species. Perhaps some of our members, particularly the boys, might like to undertake such work and we will be glad to furnish details regarding collecting specimens for museum purposes.

Isabel M. Priestly,
President,
Yorkton Natural History Society

LOCAL NOTES.

An open meeting of the Yorkton Natural History Society was held in the Council Chambers on May 17 when W.J. McDonald gave a talk on Stone Age Implements which he had found in this district. Mr. McDonald first discussed certain theories regarding prehistoric man and described some of his "finds". He then invited his audience to come and examine by hand the numerous specimens which he had brought with him from his extensive collection and we spent over an hour speculating on the uses of various ancient tools. Of particular interest were three "borers", one of which showed a twist very similar to that of a modern "bit". Mr. McDonald also had a stone hammer sent to him from South Africa which could not be distinguished from one picked up in Saskatchewan. A keen discussion took place regarding the method of flaking flints by dropping cold water on heated flint stones, one member claiming that Indians in western Canada had practiced this until quite recently to make arrow heads.

The latest films of Ducks Unlimited were shown at the annual dinner of the Yorkton Branch of the Fish & Game League by Lloyd Bunting of Regina. Outstanding were the pictures of some of our most common ducks in their winter quarters in Florida as well as some "close ups" of crows and ground squirrels, both devouring ducks' eggs when the female bird was off the nest. Mr. Bunting also showed these films at the Yorkton public schools and the Collegiate.

J. Dewey Soper, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Prairie Provinces, and famed as the discoverer of the nesting ground of the Blue Goose in Baffin Land, made a brief stop in Yorkton on June 2 on his way to Prince Albert National Park. In conversation with Mrs. Priestly Mr. Soper had some extremely nice things to say about the "Blue Jay" and the work it was doing to arouse greater interest in our wild life.

The cold weather this spring has been hard on the birds. On June 7 a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew against the window of Clements Grocery, evidently attracted by the bright colors of the fruits inside. When picked up it was in a stunned condition and was handed over to Stuart Houston. After about an hour and a half it showed signs of recovering. It was then taken out of doors where it started to vibrate its wings and then suddenly darted up to rest for a minute on the telephone wire before it shot away to freedom.

No birds have shown a greater increase in numbers in Yorkton than have the Purple Martins. Every year sees more people put up houses for them. The latest hostess is Miss Lloyd. She set up a house one Thursday night and by the following Saturday morning a crowd of excited martins were around eagerly discussing the merits of this new residence. Small flocks of martins continued to come around until the permanent tenants moved in.

The Air Force has given us another crow story. While a certain pilot officer was cycling south on No. 9 Highway recently, he was attacked by a crow which inflicted a nasty scalp wound over two inches long. We asked this officer if he was sure it was a crow which attacked him and not a hawk, but on this point he is absolutely without a doubt.

York Lake has now regained its former level and there is an effort being made to have the area made a provincial park.

THE LUCK OF A NATURALIST - by L.T. McKim, K.C.

For over 20 years I have kept a bird list, but with May 1943 nearly gone the number of species recorded was much lower than usual. Owing to the cold spring, I had done little driving, and had seen very few wading birds.

On May 23rd I visited a chain of sloughs lying east of the C.N.R. roundhouse where Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ruddy, and many other ducks usually abound. I hoped also to find some of the waders. My luck was in, for, on a shallow, muddy pond, I found scores of them. I have in my nature library 100 colored plates of the birds of New York State, one of which depicts several sandpipers - the White-rumped, Pectoral, Baird's, Semipalmated and Least. There they were - all of them - not fifty feet from me, just as though they had stepped out of the picture! The white-rumped sandpipers were particularly numerous. What caught my eye most, however, was about a dozen Knots, which I did not remember ever having seen before. The breasts of these fine fellows were brick red and some had a decidedly dark, almost black streak on their crowns. I wondered if they had come from South Africa, Patagonia or New Zealand to which distant lands these great travellers sometimes go for the winter.

Among the waders I spotted a single semipalmated plover and a beautiful female Wilson's Phalarope. Just before I had reached the slough a pair of Upland Plovers attracted my attention with their very characteristic call, as they dropped down near one of the pot-holes, and a moment afterward a Purple Martin winged its way over the rushes. I had not seen either species this year and often fail to record them at all. Upland Plovers, very plentiful when I was a boy, are rare now. The sight of them takes me back to the early days in Manitoba when I found dozens of their nests every year.

In that one spot I added 9 birds to my list. I had seen the phalarope before this spring and in fact, they are always to be found at those sloughs, and nest there every year. The next day I went back for another look. There wasn't a single wader there.

Now a word about the identification of some of the birds I saw. Least and Semipalmated sandpipers are the smallest of our wading birds and hard to tell apart at a distance. However, they will generally let you approach very close to them. The Semipalmated is usually a lighter colored bird than the Least, and the former has black legs while those of the latter are olive green. A Baird's Sandpiper is like a large Least Sandpiper and has a greyish bib. It is frequently seen with its more diminutive cousins and the difference in size is quite noticeable.

A week before I had seen eight Dowitchers at the slough mentioned. The Dowitcher's coloration is very like the Knot's but it has a bill like the Wilson's Snipe, about three inches long, while the Knot's bill is slightly less than 2 inches. The remaining birds I have mentioned can hardly be mistaken for any others. For those who have not seen it, let me advise keeping an eye open for the dainty semipalmated plover. He is a smaller edition of the Killdeer plover but has only one ring around his neck.

YORKTON NOTE: On June 6 we found a Wilson's Phalarope's nest with four eggs at Rousay Lake. When flushed from the nest the male bird simulated a broken wing, just as the Killdeer does, to divert attention. Phalaropes are unique, in that the usual order of things is reversed; the larger and more brightly colored bird is the female, and further still, it is the male Phalarope which takes on the task of incubating the eggs.

A BEAVER STORY.

Dick Bird sent us a delightful account of "an interesting moment on the Moose Jaw Creek last year." He writes, "A mother duck was leading her tiny brood up stream - the downy youngsters paddling along in a compact group behind her. A beaver came swimming leisurely down stream. As he passed the little convoy, just for sheer devilment, he dived and in so doing flapped his huge tail on the surface of the water. The subsequent wave sent the ducklings bobbing up and down, almost capsizing some of them, and completely broke up the formation, much to the consternation of the 'old lady' and the babies. The beaver meanwhile had surfaced and was watching the melee. After a bit of fussing the duck reformed the parade - whereupon the beaver overtook the group . . .turned round and repeated the manoeuver. Three times he broke up the convoy . . .you could almost see his grin, as he watched (with us) the indignant duck regrouping and pacifying her perturbed and swamped brood. I'm sure she was muttering, 'All right children, pay no attention to that smart alec, it's too bad that such hooliganism should be permitted on quiet public highways, there oughta be a law...' "

....AND A GOOSE STORY

Winnipeg papers have been carrying the story of a Canada Goose which has returned to his mate of last summer, in Portage La Prairie Park, after having been south for the winter. Frank Baines of Crescent Lake had a very similar experience some years ago when he kept Canada Geese which he had raised from eggs taken from a nest in the marshes. One of these ganders was killed defending his flock from a coyote, but the following spring his widow managed to persuade a gander from the northward-winging flocks to stay and mate with her. That first summer the wild bird was extremely wary and would allow no one around the farm to get very near him, and when fall came,south he went with other members of his tribe. Next spring, however, when the geese came back, one bird fell out and was seen circling round the farms of the district, honking loudly till he discovered his lonely grass-widow. The second summer he was not quite so cautious and would venture into the hen house so that one day Mr. Baines was able to clip his wings. He lived for many years and the details of his death are rather tragic. Some loose horses ran over his nest in spite of his gallant defense, and killed his mate. Although apparently not seriously injured himself, nevertheless he refused to eat and also died a few days later.

"Canada Geese", remarks Mr. Baines", are wonderful birds when one gets really acquainted with them. For all round good sense they are leaders. They mate for life and are absolutely faithful."

ANOTHER NATURE COLUMN.

In the last "Blue Jay", we drew attention to Marion Nixon's 'Nature' in the "Saskatchewan Farmer"; another nature column is also conducted in the young people's section of the "Western Producer" under the heading "Do You Watch The Birds?" In this column letters are printed from "young co-operators" describing the birds they have seen and fed. "Do You Watch The Birds" has been running for some years and is certainly doing good work in encouraging the younger generation to take an interest in the bird life of the province.

We would also urge our members to be sure and read Mrs. Elizabeth Flock's delightful nature articles which appear from time to time in the Regina Leader Post.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The Ring-necked Pheasant now seems well established in the southern part of the province. Mrs. Marion Nixon, Wauchope, states that within the last ten years pheasants have become fairly common there and that "it is now not unusual to find a handsome cock bird stalking along the roadside, or to startle the quietly colored, but also long-tailed female into raucous flight." Although many young birds have been liverated in the Moose Mountain district, Mrs. Nixon thinks that some of the pheasants in their area may have worked up from North Dakota. And, from the other side of the province, Arthur Ward of Burnham wrote us about some birds which he had released a few years ago. "They settled", he says, "in the covers along the creek near the Highfield dam and scattered widely."

There is always an element of risk in introducing any alien bird and already complaints have been laid against the Ring-necked Pheasant. Some sportsmen claim that they are detrimental to native game birds. In other places they have become a pest devouring farm crops (tomatoes and berries are a favorite item with the pheasant), and still another complaint is that the male bird will sometimes come into the farmyard and engage the domestic rooster in deadly combat! It would be interesting to get more letters on the status of the Pheasant in Saskatchewan, perhaps our severe winters will keep them from becoming over abundant.

We have several times referred to Mitchell's Catalogue of Saskatchewan Birds. This was a list of the birds of the province compiled in 1924 by H. Hedley Mitchell, when he was curator of the Provincial Museum. It was published in the Canadian Field-Naturalist and reprinted by the provincial Department of Agriculture. Unfortunately the supply of this list is now exhausted, so copies are very precious. In it were listed some 304 different birds, twenty-nine of which were "hypothetical" (no actual specimen of the bird having been obtained). Mr. L.B. Potter's list of additions published in the last "Blue Jay", reports ten new species for the province eight of which have been supported by actual specimens. And of the former twenty-nine hypothetical species, sixteen have been definitely established by specimens. So at the present time the number of birds recorded for the province is apparently 314.

In connection with our reference in the last issue of the "Blue Jay" to "the famed filing notes of the Saw-whet Owl", M.G. Street, Nipawin, writes - "I am more familiar with the cries of this tiny owl than I am with the birds themselves as I have tried to track them down many times with the same result - failure, although this spring I was fortunate enough to find two nests for the first time. The Saw-whets seem to have several different calls; one is a raspy, jerky call of about three seconds duration, like a person cutting steel with a hacksaw. Another call, most like a saw being filed, has a somewhat resonant effect and is of about five seconds duration, with a pause of nearly three minutes between calls. Another note is made while the bird is on the nest - a low, barely audible moan, which increases in intensity for about two seconds and ends with a snap of the bill.

While on the nest these small owls are very tame and allow themselves to be handled without the slightest of fear. I visited one nest which is in an old flicker-hole in a large poplar stub today (May 23), and found it contained one young bird recently hatched and four eggs all "pipped". Neatly stacked to one side of the nesting hole were three Meadow Mice, apparently freshly caught. I found one egg in this nest on April 23 so apparently incubation in the case of the Saw-whet Owl takes a long time."

Please let us have reports of what is seen by members during the summer months, so we can get Volume 2 of the "Blue Jay" off to a good start.

INFORMATION PLEASE.

We should like to have any reports of the Cliff or Eave Swallow, (the swallow which builds a mud nest on the smooth face of a barn or farmhouse). As stated in the second number of the "Blue Jay", this is one bird which has greatly decreased in numbers in the last thirty years.

Having asked for information regarding the Great Blue Heron, we should now like some reports on the Black-crowned Night Heron. The latter is not as well known as its larger relative, but seems to be generally distributed over the province. The Black-crowned Night Heron stands about twenty inches high and is a handsome bird with greenish-black back, grey wings and white underparts, and in the breeding season two long plumes extend from the back of the head down over the back. Young birds are brown in color, striped with cream, and closely resemble the Bittern but have trace of yellow in their feathering. Like other herons the Black-crowned nest in colonies, apparently always on the ground (in marshes) in western Canada, although in the east they are found nesting in trees.

It is rather interesting to note that the first record of the Night Heron for Western Canada was made by Donald Gunn in 1868 when collecting birds' eggs for the Smithsonian Institute in the Shoal Lake district, north-west of Winnipeg. Donald Gunn was the grandfather of J. Gunn, well-known resident of Devil's Lake (Good Spirit Lake), some thirty miles north-west of Yorkton, and himself a keen naturalist and member of our society.

How far north does the breeding range of the Chestnut-collared Longspur extend? We have only once seen this bird near Yorkton and Mr. McKim has but two records for Melville. However, last summer W. Niven came across two nesting colonies of these small birds, so typical of the open prairie, on his farmland near Sheho. "Their song", he writes, "is a sweet tinkling melody. The bird rises from the ground with undulating flight, typical of the longspurs, to a height of from ten to fifteen feet. It then spreads its wings and glides down to earth, singing as it drops." (The male chestnut-collared Longspur has a black breast, and brown back, with chestnut collar and white outer tail feathers.)

How many members know the Chimney Swift? It is not a common bird in Saskatchewan, in fact no definite record had been made for this species until F.G. Bard secured two specimens for the Provincial Museum from the Pasquia Hills in 1939. Last winter M.G. Street forwarded us a swift's nest taken from the chimney of a house in Nipawin. This nest was most interesting - a frail half-saucer shaped structure, built of small twigs all cemented together with saliva so that the whole thing looked as if it were varnished. It has long been a problem to naturalists how the swift - a bird entirely aerial in habit - collects the twigs for its nest. Does it break them off dead branches with its feet or beak? Young swifts are said to be some of the ugliest youngsters in the bird world.

In answer to our query on Starlings, letters received show that this newcomer has now spread all over the settled parts of the province, but so far no one has mentioned seeing a large winter flock turning and twisting with the remarkable coordination displayed by these birds when in flocks. "Lovely birds, but so dirty and noisy in their habits" is one correspondent's comment on the starlings.

"Nature has a place for every predatory animal and bird of prey. All are a part of our wild life, and each performs an essential duty in regulating the abundance of the species on which they prey." - Tony Lascelles.

BATS. We have received some more notes on Bats. Last June 15, while cutting pulpwood on the Saskatchewan River, N. Carvell of Nipawin felled a thick-topped spruce. As the tree struck the ground a bat fell out of the branches. On examination of this bat, which was in a semi-stunned condition, Mr. Carvell discovered that there were two naked young ones clinging tightly to its breast. The bat was lying on its back and when turned over with a stick quickly turned over onto its back again. After about ¾ hour it flew into the top of a nearby spruce, apparently fully recovered from its fall. This bat was said to be about six inches long and gray in color.

As was stated in the last number of the "Blue Jay", very little is known about the habits of bats but apparently all female bats carry their young round with them for some time after they are born. When they are a little older the mother bat may leave them on some roof or branch while she goes on foraging flights, so any tree or building frequently visited by a bat during the course of an evening is worth examining to see if there is a young bat hanging there. And another interesting point is that in many species of bats, the females congregate in nurseries in hollow trees, barns or vacant houses to give birth to their young and from these colonies male bats are excluded. The colony of bats which F. Roy of Tullis described was probably one of these bat nurseries.

And with regard to the fact that so far, apparently, no hibernating bat has ever been reported from the prairies. When Dick Bird was giving a talk in the basement of the Zion Church, Moose Jaw, early in May, "a bat put on an aerial display, complete with power-dives, loops, flips and rolls, so that it almost stole the show." We are wondering if this was possibly a hibernating bat just waking up; in Eastern Canada the basements of city churches are often a favorite winter slumbering place for certain species.

Evidently our previous notes on bats were of interest to outsiders as we have received from Dr. A. L. Rand of the National Museum of Canada a short sketch of the Bats recorded from Saskatchewan based on specimens and records in the Museum at Ottawa. Dr. Rand points out that so little work has been done on these animals in the west that anyone interested could probably collect several species that so far have never been found in the province. The National Museum is anxious to receive both notes on the habits of bats, as well as actual specimens. We will be glad to furnish further details on collecting specimens for museum purposes, or if anyone comes across any bats this summer and will send them to us, we will forward them to Ottawa. On the back page of this number of the bulletin, we are printing Dr. Rand's list of Saskatchewan Bats (from records in the National Museum).

We quote the following notes from Marion Nixon's column, "Nature", in the Saskatchewan Farmer - "Speaking of mice, I wonder how many people have come upon what is in one way, our most remarkable mouse. I mean that little yellowish-brown fellow with white underparts and the extraordinarily long tail and hind legs like a miniature kangaroo - the jumping mouse.

In summer it feeds and nests in the long grass, but no runnels show the way to its home, for our jumping mouse makes three foot leaps with ease, clearing six feet or more on occasion. They are mostly nocturnal, which may account for their apparent rarity; but often the men will find one when they are haying or harvesting. The sleeping mouse is disturbed and leaps frantically for the haven afforded by the uncut grass. In the fall the Jumping Mice get very fat and unlike the majority of our native mice, hibernate underground."

As we have said before, we want to get more reports on our animals. Perhaps some members when away at a summer cottage may come across a Flying Squirrel. These little creatures, although nocturnal in habit, are said to show no fear when investigated with a flashlight.

BIRD LIST OF NIPAWIN

Last July we published a mimeographed bird list for the Yorkton area. This summer we are publishing a much more comprehensive list compiled by M.G. Street for the Nipawin district. Nipawin is situated on the Saskatchewan River and lies just at the junction of the prairie farm belt and the northern timber country and therefore offers great opportunities for "birding." Mr. Street has been keeping close watch on the birds of this district since 1922 and we feel his list is a most valuable addition to Saskatchewan wildlife records. The earliest, as well as the average, spring migration date is given for each bird listed; also nesting records and notes on the abundance of each species. Copies of this list, which will be ready early in August, may be obtained for ten cents from C. Stuart Houston, Box 642, Yorkton, Sask.

MANITOBA N. H. S. 21 YEARS OLD

In 1941 the Manitoba Natural History Society, Winnipeg, celebrated its 21st anniversary, and we have recently received an attractively bound, illustrated bulletin reporting on the society's twenty-one years of work. Few natural history societies can have maintained the continuous high level of activity as has the Manitoba organization. Weekly winter lectures as well as well-organized summer excursions, many of the latter centering round the society's club house at Victoria Beach on Lake Winnipeg, have been among the Society's most successful enterprises. And while encouraging popular interest in nature study, the Society has always fostered original research of real scientific value, especially among its younger members. Most outstanding, however, from a community point of view, has been the important part the Manitoba Natural History Society played in organizing the Manitoba Museum, which was opened in 1939 in the new Winnipeg Civic Auditorium. The Museum now contains a wealth of material illustrating the geology, flora and fauna and ethnology of the Province, much of which was collected by members of the Natural History Society. The Manitoba Society can certainly look back with pride on what it has accomplished in twenty-one years, through the splendid cooperation of its members.

OBITUARY

Citizens of Yorkton heard with deep regret the sudden death of Judge J.M. Patrick, formerly of this city, on June 9. Judge Patrick was a keen naturalist and, although none of the members of our Natural History Society had worked with him, we realize fully how much he did in the interests of wild life in this district. "He was a true conservationist even before many of us realized the necessity of protecting our game birds and animals and contributed in no small way to bringing into effect many measures for their preservation," wrote L.T. McKim in a recent issue of the Yorkton Enterprise. For over twenty-five years Judge Patrick maintained a deer park and bird sanctuary on the western outskirts of Yorkton, but when he moved to Moosomin in 1935 this unfortunately had to be broken up as no one came forward to carry on his project.

Local bird records of interest this spring have been - Magnolia Warbler, May 23; Ring-necked Duck, Pine Siskin, May 29 (Pine Siskins noted feeding on the ground among a patch of dandelions, June 5); Olive-sided Flycatcher, June 5

BATS IN SASKATCHEWAN - by A. L. Rand,
National Museum of Canada.

Hoary Bat, Lasiurus cinereus. The largest of our bats; up to 5½ inches long, wing spread up to 12"; Color dark brown, heavily frosted with white; ears low and rounded; foreward part of under side of wings furred; 1 specimen, from Shaunavon; always a rare bat; sleeps hanging in trees; migratory.

Red Bat, Lasiurus borealis; a medium sized bat; up to 4½" long; color rather bright reddish brown; specimen from Last Mountain Lake; a bat that sleeps hanging up in trees; migratory.

Big Brown Bat, Eptesicus fuscus; a medium-sized bat up to 4½" long; color uniform pale brown; sleeps in caves, crevices and holes in trees, and buildings; hibernates or migrates; in buildings occasionally appears, active, from hibernation in midwinter. We have no specimens, but it undoubtably occurs, and we would be interested in seeing some to determine whether the pale prairie or the dark eastern subspecies, or both occur.

Silver-haired Bat, Lasionycteris noctivagans; a medium-sized bat, up to 4" long; color blackish brown, fur tipped with white; underwing without fur; a specimen from Govenlock; sleeps in caves, hollow trees and masses of foliage; migrates.

Masked Bat, Myotis subulatis; a tiny bat, up to 3⅛" long; color above pale tow or yellowish brown, whitish below; ears and face contrastingly black; ears small, reaching about to nostril when laid forward; not yet recorded from Saskatchewan, but probably occurs, as it has been taken in southern Alberta, (Red Deer River); probably sleeps in buildings, caves, and hollow trees.

Keen's Bat, Myotis keenii; a small bat, up to 3½" long; color rather dark brown above, paler below; very similar to the Little Brown Bat, but with longer ears, that when laid forward reach about ⅛" beyond tip of nose; not yet recorded from Saskatchewan, but may occur in the south; sleeps in caves, and holes in trees and buildings.

Little Brown Bat, Myotis lucifugus; a small bat, up to about 3½" long; very similar to Keen's Bat, but ear when laid forward just reaching nostril; color dark brown above, paler below; we have no Saskatchewan specimens, but it is probably common.

Southern Brown Bat, Myotis austroriparius; a small bat, up to about 3½" long; externally very similar to the Little Brown Bat but fur shorter and duller; skull more slender and in adults with a low, perfectly formed sagittal crest; an old, doubtful record fro Saskatchewan, from a specimen in the British Museum. Occurence questionable.

Little Long-eared Bat, Myotis evotis; a small bat, up to 3½" long; color fur pale yellowish brown above, whitish below; ears large, reaching well beyond nostrils when laid forward; not yet recorded for Saskatchewan but probably occurs as it does in southern Alberta (Red Deer River). Occurs in thinly wooded country, and sleeps in buildings and perhaps in trees.

(Specimens mentioned above refer to specimens in the National Museum of Canada).